

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc ISSUES RESEARCH AND ACTION TEAM (IRA)
August 8, 2013 Minutes

The Issues Research and Action Team of the City of Mesa met on August 8th, 2013,
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 250.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair
Frank Johnson
Cliff Moon

MEMBERS ABSENT

Orchidia Peterson

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to IRA.

3. Approval of the May 16th, 2013 IRA meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Moon to approve the May 16th, 2013 minutes and Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear update on the research, discuss, consider and take action on the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Community Dialogues on Discrimination series.

Ms. Giese provided an update on the research done by staff during the summer break. Ms. Heap thanked staff for their work. Ms. Giese stated the research showed that engaging the public first through a community wide survey helped other boards determine areas of interest or concern related to diversity and inclusion. Ms. Giese suggested that rather than distributing a survey at the same time as the dialogues, the board should consider issuing a survey first then proceeding with the community conversations or study circles based on the results. The results would be done through a comprehensive analysis and reviewed by a third party to insure quality control. The board agreed that by conducting a survey first, they are able to obtain gain direction from the community. Board members and staff would work with the community in order to promote and distribute the survey which would be available online and in paper form. The board discussed optimal length of time for an open survey and means of distribution i.e. press release, email notifications, word of mouth, informational postcard, etc. IRA members were provided a draft survey, compiled based on prior direction, in order to review and supply feedback.

Ms. Heap suggested that the word "dialogue" be replaced by "conversation" as to remain more inviting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to change the word dialogue to conversation in the title, Mr. Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Moon made a motion to distribute a survey for data collection purposes, with review of results by third party consultant Karen Kurtz. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

IRA agreed to determine future meeting dates after the Strategic Planning meeting on August 24th, 2013.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53pm.

Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Giese", written in dark ink.

Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator